

Red Scare Revival In Official Hands?

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BOTH THE White House and the Department of Justice decline to say what J. Edgar Hoover and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may have reported to the President on "antiwar activity." But if a recent incident that occurred in Pittsburgh is a reflection of what is beginning to happen around the country, there is reason to fear a revival of the red scare, the red raids and the McCarthyist hysteria following the two World Wars.

Here, as checked out with James M. Carter, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who entered the case, is what happened.

David Dellinger, speaking in Clapp Hall at the University of Pittsburgh, expressed to students and others the strong antiwar views of his small publication *Liberation*.

After his talk, Dellinger and many of his audience went to a party in the apartment of Frank Goldsmith, a research associate for the United Steelworkers Union. Most of the guests were young people deeply concerned over the Vietnam war. Shortly after Dellinger had left the party at about 12:30 a.m., Pittsburgh police raided it.

They had a warrant which, it developed later, had been issued 12 hours earlier. It charged Goldsmith with illegal possession of marijuana. When this charge could not be substantiated, cold tablets found in his bathroom medicine chest were cited as illegal drugs, although they had been issued on a doctor's prescription. Guests were searched, and several who had tranquilizers were threatened with a similar charge.

THE POLICE took down from the wall a poster bearing a picture of Mao Tse-tung. They wanted to know who this was. A guest jokingly remarked that it was Ho Chi Minh before he went on a diet. When the picture was produced in magistrate's court, it was identified as a picture of Ho.

Goldsmith and 52 others were taken in patrol cars to the police station. The guests were charged with being present in a disorderly house. They were held from about 3 a.m. to between 6 and 7 a.m., when they posted bond.

One of those present at the party was a student from Uganda at the University of Pittsburgh, Mahmood Mamdani, who has won a considerable reputation as head of the debating team. He told the officer in charge of the raid that he was a foreign national and his embassy had assured him that he did not need to submit to arrest when no specific charge was involved.

Mamdani swears that the officer responded with, "Go back where you came from, you goddamned gook." The police deny that the expression "goddamned gook" was used.

Subsequently all the charges were dropped. But they were dropped in such a way that suit for false arrest would be hard to bring.

Those close to the case strongly suspect that the police action was related to the interest of the FBI in Dellinger and the antiwar faction on the University campus. Both the Department of Justice and the FBI say that the FBI had no connection whatsoever with the Pittsburgh incident. More recently, an estimated 75 police showed up at a campus peace rally and observers had the impression they were waiting for trouble to break out so they could move in.

If this is the trend in certain areas, in marked contrast to the sober way the authorities behaved during the massive demonstration in New York, we are in for trouble. There is no denying that inflamed feeling on both sides of the war issue presents the Johnson Administration with a painful dilemma.

The far-out demonstrators who burn draft cards and American flags arouse intense feelings of anger and resentment. They are certain to produce a reaction at the other extreme. This may serve the purpose all too well for some who follow the leftist extreme.

WHETHER they are part of what Secretary of State Dean Rusk has called the Communist apparatus or are simply in rebellion against anything and everything connected with the power establishment, they will be happy to prove that "imperialist" America is also "fascist" America.

Incidents such as the one in Pittsburgh add fuel to this fire, and that is part of the peril of the FBI's watch on "antiwar activity."

Perhaps the Pittsburgh cops were simply overzealous, and it is a footnote to the whole episode that the police inspector who led the raid, Iggy Borkowski, has been indicted for bribery. But to many of the students carried off in patrol cars it seemed that dissent itself was being punished by the most brutal—and unconstitutional—police methods.